

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01795 152201Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02
SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10
NEA-10 DOTE-00 FMC-01 /136 W
-----127189 160750Z /11

R 151525Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6155
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

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E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EWWT
SUBJ: RE-EVALUATION OF USG PARTICIPATION IN THE FIFTH UNCTAD
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL
MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT

REFS: (A) STATE 24300; (B) STATE 62866

1. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED A REPLY TO THE APPROACH RE THE IPG
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ON INTERNATIONAL MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT THAT WE MADE UPON RE-
CEIPT OF REF (A).

2. THE DANES BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE IF
THE UNITED STATES DISCONTINUES NEGOTIATIONS JUST WHEN THE
POSSIBILITY FOR DEBATING THE ISSUE OF MOST CONCERN TO GROUP
B--I.E., PRIVATE LAW QUESTIONS--HAS BECOME A REALITY. THE

DANES MAINTAIN THAT A DEBATE HAS BEEN DELAYED LARGELY BECAUSE COUNTRIES WERE WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE MARCH 1978 DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE IN HAMBURG WOULD BE WITH RESPECT TO A NEW BILL OF LADING CONVENTION. THAT MATTER IS, HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT IPG MEETING IN THE FALL.

3. THE DANES SAY FURTHERMORE THAT IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF A COUNTRY OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO CONTAINER TRAFFIC AS THE U.S. SHOULD CEASE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE IPG NEGOTIATIONS. DENMARK AGREES IN PRINCIPLE FULLY WITH THE U.S. THAT ONE'S OBJECTIVE IN THE IPG SHOULD BE ONLY A PRIVATE LAW CONVENTION, AND NOT WITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT IT SHARES SOMEWHAT U.S. SKEPTICISM OVER WHETHER THAT IS ACHIEVABLE, DENMARK BELIEVES THAT A DECISION ONGIVING UP PARTICIPATION IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE IPG. NOT DOING SO, THE DANES SAY, WITHOUT A PRIOR ORIENTATION OF THE LDC'S, COULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE SHIPPING POLICY RESULTS IN THE UNCTAD CONTEXT.

DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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